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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3 - 21 are pending.

Claims 1 and 3 – 21 stand rejected.

Claims 2 - 13 and 15 - 21 have been cancelled without prejudice.

**REMARKS** 

By this amendment, Applicant cancels Claims 2 – 13 and 15 – 21 without

prejudice for purposes of simplifying the issues for appeal, and subject to

Applicant's right to re-introduce and seek further prosecution of these now

cancelled claims in this or a related application. Entry of this amendment is

respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is

cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at

his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 17, 2006

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